

OES Welcomes New ESO, David Davis

Contact: D. Davis

Meet David Davis the newest Emergency Services Officer for San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (OES). David has a rich background in emergency management and fire suppression. He came from

Pasadena Unified School District as the Emergency Manager for the last six years and last four years as the Fire Chief of San Pasqual Fire Department in Northern San Diego County. Before that he was the Fire Chief of the Walt Disney Studios Fire Dept. in Burbank, Los Angeles, Glendale as well as Santa Clarita, Calif. He came from the City of Avalon Fire Dept. where he was a Fire Apparatus Engineer for 14 years and started his career at Orange County Fire as a Paid-Call-Firefighter where he served two years. He grew up in Orange County where he lives now with his four children, Nicole 23, Natalie 21, Gilbert 6 and Natalie 4 and his wife Jody Davis. David is very happy to be a part of County OES.



David , Jody, and youngest children

Karen Page is Welcomed by OES

Contact: K. Page



Meet Karen Page, the newest Accounting Technician for San Bernardino County Fire, OES (Office of Emergency Services) Grants Administration Unit. Karen comes to County OES comes from Program Integrity where she worked as a Fiscal Assistant for two years. Before that she was Accountant in the private sector for 25+ years. She was born in San Bernardino and grew up in Alta Loma where she lives now. Karen also runs a karaoke business on the weekends. In her spare time she enjoys watching football and is a huge Denver Broncos fan. Visiting Mickey at Disneyland is also one of her favorite things. She is very proud of her two daughters, who both live in Texas, and are incredible teachers. She also has an eight year old grandson who is the light of her life. Karen is very happy to be a part of the San Bernardino County Fire, OES family.

TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

Intro to WebEOC for City/Town Emergency Managers

March 30, 2016
County OES in Rialto

9:00am—12pm

OR

1:30pm—4:30pm

OES Welcomes Grants Unit Member

Contact: K. Kehl

Kathryn Kehl joined County Fire in 2006 as an Account Representative for the Hazardous Materials Division working in billing and accounts receivables. In 2007 she promoted to a Collections Officer in the Fiscal Division, billing and collecting revenues for unpaid

hazmat permits, fire prevention permits, and cost recovery incidents. While in collections, Kathryn participated in the San Bernardino County MPA Cohort working towards a degree in Public Administration from CSUSB



earning her Master's Degree in Public Administration in 2012. In 2013, she was promoted to a Staff Analyst I working with the fee program in the Hazardous Materials Division. Then in 2014, Kathryn was promoted to a Staff Analyst II as a special projects analyst preparing contracts, BAI's and other miscellaneous projects in the Budget/Finance/Grants Division of County Fire. Kathryn is now looking forward to learning about Grant administration and contributing positively in her new role within the OES Grants Unit.

Kathryn is married with two daughters, one in college and the youngest in high school. When not working, she enjoys spending time with her family, baking, and watching a good movie.



When Terror Came to Town

Contact: R. Lindsay

Just like fires, floods and earthquakes, terrorism is a hazard that San Bernardino County has trained, exercised and equipped itself for. But it is safe to say that with all our preparations, no one expected San Bernardino to be the nation's first west coast target of terrorism.

Much has been written and reported about the terror attack in San Bernardino on December 2, 2015, but few have experienced the ensuing events that unfolded behind the scenes from the very first reports of gunfire at the Inland Regional Center like County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (OES). In this incident, we were victims as well as responders; we lost County coworkers and friends, yet there was much to do in support of both the City of San Bernardino, our County leadership and County as a whole. County OES immediately activated the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and by its actions, upheld the division's mission to "strengthen countywide emergency management to ensure the protection of life and property".

Although we often note that our work in the Emergency Operations Center is "below the radar," County OES certainly earned the title of "first responder" in every sense of the phrase. An Emergency Services Officer was deployed to the Waterman Incident Command Post (ICP) to act as a liaison between the ICP and County OES, coordinating response planning meetings for the County Executive Officer, both internally and externally with incident stakeholders, and being involved in the coordination of the FBI Family Assistance Center at the National Orange Show. County OES is also among County "last responders" as into the months ahead we continue to support the Waterman Incident recovery efforts, including cost recovery, ongoing resource requests and after action activities.

County OES is grateful to have fulfilled our role and purpose as emergency managers in this tragedy. We mourn with and for our County Environmental Health friends. Going forward, there is no better use of our time and talents than to honor those who lost their lives and those whose lives were forever changed on December 2nd than to continue to support and coordinate the recovery efforts of our County. Thank you to all our County departments and multiagency partners that came alongside to assist, support and encourage us in this essential work.



San Bernardino City SWAT Responding



County OES staff pause briefly to watch press conference



County employees show strength, solidarity in force at County memorial

November OACC Predicts Future

Contact: R. Lindsay

The day long slate of speakers for the November 2015 Operational Area Coordinating Council (OACC) meeting hosted by the City of Chino Hills was both dynamic and timely enough to draw the best attendance of City/ Town jurisdictions in recent memory. A report from the County Department of Public Works on El Niño preparations and an FBI presentation on Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVE) in San Bernardino packed the house and provided valuable information that would be utilized all too soon in the San Bernardino terrorist attack and winter weather incident that followed in December and January respectively.



Packed house at McCoy Equestrian Center for FBI presentation on Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVEs)

In addition to the usual Operational Area business update and a working lunch, the day included a time to celebrate. Emergency Services Officer (ESO) and CERT Coordinator Michael Ramirez recognized jurisdictions in attendance for their contribution to the County CERT Program receiving the Governor’s Volunteering and Service Award for the Disaster Volunteer Program of the Year.



Brendon Biggs, County DPW, presents on El Niño

Center for Domestic Preparedness PIO Training

Contact: C. Nagy

Training is always a top priority in all fields. Recently Cheryl Nagy, Division Public Information Officer (PIO) for the San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Claudia Doyle, PIO for San Bernardino County Department of Public Health (DPH) were selected to attend Advanced Public Information training at Homeland Security’s Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama. Cheryl and Claudia joined a class of 35 PIOs from throughout California as they traveled to CDP.



CDP Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

The four days of training gave each student a chance to work various positions in not one, but two different county Joint Information Centers during a scenario of multiple county flooding and infectious disease situations. Many County employees have worked in the County EOC or at the DPH DOC (Department Operations Center) but this time Cheryl and Claudia were given the chance to work across county lines in two Joint Information Centers and two county Emergency Operations Centers whilst various simulated scenarios were occurring.

In addition to the training and exercise involvement the class was given a hands-on tour of CDP’s Emergency Operations Center. It was a great experience and gave everyone involved the chance to network with other PIOs from California.

CERT Gets the Word Out About El Niño

Contact: M. A. Ramirez

San Bernardino County unincorporated CERT programs distributed thousands of informational El Niño preparedness packets to residents in flood prone areas, including Lytle Creek, Wrightwood, Phelan/Pinon Hills, Lucerne Valley, Angelus Oaks and the Morongo Basin. Working with local Battalion Chiefs and Captains CERT Members gathered their teams to assemble the packets. The infor-



Phelan/Pinon Hills CERT Members assemble thousands of El Niño informational packets

mation was placed in sandbags and included a message from San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig, the County Fire’s “Ready, Set, Go” pamphlet, and locations where residents could pick up sandbags if needed. CERTs then fanned out around their communities and distributed the packets to homes in areas that could be affected by El Niño related flooding. The project was an outstanding opportunity to show the capabilities of CERT Members and their willingness to help the communities they live in.



CERT Members brave the chilly weather to get the word out about El Niño

Grants Update

Contact: M. Antonucci; K. Gonzalez; K. Page; K. Kehl

FY2014 Homeland Security Grant Program

The FY14 Fund Status Reports were due 2/1/16, therefore failure to comply may result in loss of funding which will be at the discretion of the HSGP Approval Authority. All projects must be 100% completed by the deadline of March 31, 2016. All **projects must be completed and final reimbursement requests submitted to the Grants Administration Unit by April 10, 2016.**

FY2015 Homeland Security Grant Program

The Period of Performance for FY15 HSGP is 3 years. FEMA adopted new regulations ‘Super Circular’ 2 CFR Part 200, which streamlines the language from eight existing Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars into one consolidated set of guidance (A-89, A-102, A-110, A-21, A-87, A-122, A-133 & A-50).

County Fire obtained approval from Cal OES for the FY15 HSGP application 12/16/2015 and went to the County Board of Supervisors on 1/12/16 to accept the award. Subrecipients were contacted on 1/15/2016 with the required documents necessary to obtain an expenditure authorization which were due 2/1/2016 (unless prior approval was obtained). If your project requires an EHP, EOC, Sole Source or any other type of approval then the corresponding report must be sub-

mitted as soon as possible and approval must be obtained prior to incurring any expenses, otherwise your project will not be reimbursed. Modifications are due by the end of the first week of every month. The first Performance Milestone deadline is July 31, 2016.

This year the Homeland Security Grant Program is enforcing a mandatory Bi-Annual Status Report due the 2nd week of March and September of every year until the grant ends. Failure to meet milestones will result in monthly reporting until the project is back on track. Failure to complete the mandatory Bi-Annual Status Reports may result in loss of funding or may affect future funding.

Fund Status Reports will still be required in addition to the new Bi-Annual Status Report; the dates will vary depending on the expenditure rate of grant funds.

Grants Inventory

All jurisdictions need to continue with the update of their internal records of where all grant funded equipment is located or distributed for federal audit purposes. Please keep in mind grant funded equipment must not be deployed until reconciled with the Grants Unit. To expedite the process please contact Louie Camacho as soon as the equipment is received to schedule an appointment for verification of items, photographs and tagging (if necessary).

Contact info:

Louie Camacho - Fire Equipment Technician I
Phone:(909)387-5561
Email: lcamacho@sbcfire.org

FY2015 Emergency Management Performance Grant

County Fire obtained approval from Cal OES for the FY15 HSGP application on 10/23/2015, County Fire went to the County Board of Supervisors on 12/15/15 to accept the award. Subrecipients were contacted shortly after.

The FY15 EMPG 2nd Quarterly Cumulative Performance Report was submitted to Cal OES on 1/13/2016. The Fund Status Report will be sent out by March 15th, 2016; therefore if you have any funds to deobligate they must be listed on the report which is due to the Grants Unit no later by 3/31/2016.

The 3rd Quarterly Cumulative Performance Report and **final** modifications are due 4/4/2016. If you have modifications ready please submit them in advance to allow time for review.

No extensions will be granted this year. Projects must be completed by 5/31/2016 and the following are due no later than 6/6/16: deliverables, Final Reimbursement Request and Final Quarterly reports.

| Bi-Annual Status Report Timeline | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Reporting Period | Report Due Date |
| 9/1/2015-2/29/2016 | 3/11/2016 |
| 3/1/2016-8/31/2016 | 9/9/2016 |
| 9/1/2016-2/28/2017 | 3/10/2017 |
| 3/1/2017-8/31/2017 | 9/8/2017 |
| 9/1/2017-2/28/2018 | 3/9/2018 |
| 9/1/2015-3/31/2018 (Final/Cumulative) | 4/10/2018 |

Connecting California Tribes to Local Government

Contact: M. Peren

The California Tribal Epidemiology Center from the California Rural Indian Health Board has reached out to Marc Peren, Emergency Services Officer, to participate in an advisory

group. This group has been developed by the Robert Wood Johnson Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing Agreement research project, to guide the development of a toolkit that will assist on how to efficiently build relationships, mutual understanding of capacities, cross-jurisdictional development, and execution of those agreements between Tribes and Local Government. The ultimate goal is to distribute this toolkit across California with the end goal of helping tribes and counties come together for emergency management. This opportunity has been provided to San Bernardino County Fire due to its long-standing relationships with Tribal Na-

tions and the new tribal relationships brought to the Division.



So Cal READI and SWMHE 5-Day Exercise

Contact: M. Peren

The 2015 Southern California Regional Exercise for Anthrax Disaster Incidents (SoCal READI) and the 2015 California Statewide Medical and Health Exercise (SWMHE) was combined this year by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) to tie a set of common program priorities to exercise for the first time using a multi-phased exercise to test medical and health coordination; request procedures; and overall response mechanisms that will provide life-saving medication to respond to a release of a weaponized biological agent.

The exercise scenario was that terrorists have executed a wide-scale aerosolized anthrax attack in Southern California, utilizing multiple releases of dry anthrax spores dispersed by aircraft achieving maximum dispersal within the Los Angeles Basin and surrounding counties. The activities that were

set to be tested were numerous and important to a real-life incident. Activities such as detection and notification were practiced. Regional decision-making by Health Officers in Southern California



EOC Responders line up for simulated doses of medication

have been practiced. Requesting processes from local health jurisdictions for Medical Countermeasures through the Strategic National Stockpile were placed under scrutiny. The utilization of regional public information was placed into practice. Finally, the use of protocols defined in the California Public Health and Medical Emergency Operations Manual was put to the test.

The San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (OES) participated in the full-scale exercise by activating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the High Desert to keep EOC Responders out of harm's way due to aerosolized anthrax exposure that according to the scenario affected the West End of the County.

Participating agencies that reported to the San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services High Desert Emergency Oper-

ations Center included California Department of Public Health Credential & Licensing, California Office of Emergency Services, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Human Services, Inland Counties Emergency Management Agencies, Department of Public Health, and The City of Hesperia. Most EOC Responders were new to their EOC role, but the veteran responders and OES staff provided a positive learning environment for all novice players to thrive in their roles.

The full-scale exercise allowed for a full test of all the capabilities of the High Desert Emergency Operations Center facility. By activating the High Desert EOC facility we are providing familiarity for EOC Responders and keeping the capabilities of the County response sharp in order to provide the best response services to the residents and visitors of San Bernardino County.

Let It Snow

CONTINUED FROM P6

weekend and all the snow bunnies are headed to our Winter Wonderland.

On Saturday, just as power was beginning to be restored, a call came regarding a phone system outage in Forest Falls for landline and 911 services. Additional coordination now included Verizon and Sprint. By Sunday night, all the immediate crises had been handled and all was on target for full restoration and deactivation of the EOC by Monday night.

This event really does have quite a simple and perfect ending...the system works when all the partners know their role and can come together to collaborate with the same goals. There were several keys to the success of this event:

- The day to day collaboration and partnerships the OA has developed with the

public and private sector agencies; foreknowledge of systems. Kudos to SCE for exceptional response and engagement.

- The OAs activation history and experience managing multiple incidents; County EOC averages 7-8 activations annually.
- Knowledge and understanding of the nuances of the affected community and the diversities of the Mountains, Desert, and Valley communities.
- The ability to recognize there really is no such thing as a "routine" event or incident in this County and that any event can rapidly escalate into a multi-agency, multi-event coordination response effort.



Collaboration at it's finest (photo courtesy of SCE)

Thank you to all of the response partners for exemplifying the best of the three C's: **Communication, Coordination, and Collaboration.**

Valley Region El Niño Ready!

Contact: R. Lindsay

As with other regions in San Bernardino County, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinated the Valley Region El Niño Collaborators Meeting. The event was graciously hosted by the City of Rancho Cucamonga, with the purpose of bringing all key cooperators together that might have a responsibility to respond to potential El Niño winter weather issues. The three major El Niño themes our presenters focused on were public safety, flood control and debris management. The presenters included representatives from NOAA/National Weather Service, San Bernardino County Fire, San Bernardino County Sheriff, San Bernardino County Department of Public Works, the City of Rancho Cucamonga and the County Office of Emergency Services.

Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford welcomed an estimated crowd of 200 that attended the El Niño Public Awareness Meeting directly after the Collaborators Meeting and congratulated them for their proactive interest and preparations for El Niño weather events. Brief subject matter



Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford

expert presentations by Cal Trans, the National Weather Service, the City of Rancho Cucamonga, County OES and others followed and a variety of agency information tables with El Niño specific handouts were made available. The first 50 attendees through the door received a personal disaster preparedness kit from California Volunteers.

County Departments and City/Town jurisdictions are invited to visit the SBCOA WebEOC website (<https://webeoc.sbcounty.gov>) to post information on continuing El Niño pre-

paredness activities by selecting the **El Niño Planning Incident** and creating a log entry. In addition, the WebEOC OA Daily Dashboard has an El Niño Folder containing El Niño flyers, maps and PowerPoint presentations. For more information about accessing these valuable WebEOC resources, call OES and request a copy of the "WebEOC El Niño Quick Reference Guide".



Alex Tardy, NWS, interacts with young El Niño preppers

Bringing CERT to the Outer Reaches of the County

Contact: M. A. Ramirez



While all Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs recognize that professional responders may be overwhelmed for a time during a major disaster, for some communities that time may be longer than others. That reality means that an active CERT is vital for the well-being of the community. One such place is the Chemehuevi Tribal Reservation and the surrounding community of Havasu Landing. In early December the San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (OES) in partnership with the San Manuel Fire Department provided a CERT Basic Training for Chemehuevi Tribal members and employees of the tribe. Emergency Services Officer, Michael A. Ramirez, Captain Mike Russ, San Manuel Fire, and CERT Volunteer Coordinators Ed and Bonnie Ross, Wrightwood CERT, provid-

ed the three day course at the tribal community center. Participants learned about local hazards and began to realize the importance of the role they could play in an emergency. County OES hopes to continue its relationship with the tribe and will continue to take steps to support the development of a viable CERT program in that community.



CERT trainee group picture

CERT Comes to Highland

Contact: M. A. Ramirez

The San Bernardino County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) family continues to grow. The City of Highland hosted its first CERT Basic Training on January 22-24 at the Highland Police Headquarters. San Bernardino County Sheriff's Service Specialist Lisa Henley worked closely with the San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (OES) to coordinate the course. The class was taught by Michael A. Ramirez, OES Emergency Services Officer, Shannon Kendal Emergency Services Coordinator from East Valley Fire and Wrightwood CERT Volunteer Coordinators Ed and Bonnie Ross. The class was eagerly welcomed by Highland residents who have been waiting for the important training in their own community. The pro-

gram will be administered by the Sheriff's Department with assistance from Cal Fire firefighters who service the city. In an effort to assist jurisdictions that desire to bring CERT to their communities OES will help jurisdictions with their first CERT Basic Training class. Contact ESO, Michael A. Ramirez at (909) 356-3998 for more information.



Fire Extinguisher Training



Cal Fire assisting in training



CERT Ready to Fight!

Contact: M. A. Ramirez

CERT volunteers from throughout San Bernardino County participated in Emergency Flood Fight training in preparation for possible effects from El Niño related flooding. The two courses, coordinated by the San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services, were taught by instructors from the California Department of Water Resources. The December course was hosted by the City of Hesperia CERT and held at the city's public works facility. The second class in January was hosted by the San Manuel Tribal Emergency Response Team and conducted at the San Manuel Village. Both classes filled quickly and even with a collective attendance of over 125 participants there were still people on the waitlist.

The first portion of the day was spent indoors learning important tips on being properly equipped as well as the best methods for reducing damage to property from flooding. As always, safety was at the forefront of everything taught. The second part of the day was conducted outside and provided CERT volunteers the opportunity to practice the construction of various flood

fighting structures. This included basics like how to properly fill, pass and set a sandbag as well as the more complex construction of a wavewash protection barrier.

These skills add another layer of preparedness among CERT volunteers and increase their ability to protect themselves, their families and their communities for the possible effects of El Niño.



CERT volunteers work together to safely and efficiently pass sandbags



Wavewash protection barrier being practiced



A packed house in San Manuel Village

Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

With all the attention and emphasis on rain and flooding, let us not forget the other affects of El Niño

Contact: C. Cruz

The New Year started out with much of the Southern California region, including the San Bernardino County Operational Area (SBCOA) and surrounding OAs, either on high alert or activated for the first El Niño winter storm event. However, just as our neighboring OAs were ramping down, the collateral impacts of El Niño targeted the mountain areas, specifically the unincorporated community of Forest Falls.

What started out as a "routine" power outage on January 5, rapidly escalated into a six-day County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation with multiple agencies, responding to multiple incidents with several moving pieces...in the SNOW!

Wednesday, Jan 5 – Once Southern California Edison (SCE) crews were able to complete their initial damage assessment, the call

came in advising that the "routine outage" with an estimated restoration time of 48 hours now had an "extended" restoration time of five days impacting 1,100 customers. The snow had severely damaged SCE infrastructure and all four circuits in the Forest Falls area were off-line.

Thursday, Jan 6 — Monday, Jan 11 – During this time frame a significant coordination effort took place to ensure that the needs of the community were met. The primary issues included notifications to the community of the extended restoration time and the availability of Red Cross services. Coordination efforts involved daily conference calls with all the stakeholder agencies including SCE Business Affairs, SCE Incident Management Team (IMT), SCE field crews supported by County Public Works



Crews work on downed powerline near Forest Falls

crews for road clearance; American Red Cross teams on standby for sheltering needs, County Fire who provided equipment and knowledge of the community, County Sheriff for road closure support, and the CAO's office. Keep in mind that it's the start of the

CONTINUED ON P6

Meet OES Newest Employee, Rosemary Alford

Contact: R. Alford

Rosemary came from County of San Bernardino Transitional Assistance Department (TAD) in Hesperia where she started in 2001 as a Public Service Employee for a new Child Care Provider position in day care facilities inside of TAD offices. After six months of supporting the position, the department decided that there was a need for child care services

in every TAD facility. Rosemary applied for the newly created permanent position and became a full time County employee where she developed the pilot program for the TAD child care facilities, creating rules and regulations and setting up all High Desert offices. She held this position for 10 years while also learning clerical to advance within the County. In 2011 she promoted to Office Assistant II with TAD, where she worked for the last 15 years. Rosemary wanted to promote further within the County and learn a new department and she became interested in emergency services upon completing a CERT class and getting CERT certified. This newfound interest led her seek out positions in the field.

Rosemary started as an Office Assistant III for County OES in January. She has 3 children,

Alexis 18, Issac 14 and Leyara 10. She was also blessed with her first grandson on Christmas Eve 2015. Rosemary is happy to be able to stay within the County and learn everything she can about the OES division.

